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THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER.

The London Times Correspondent's Opinion About It.

The bombardment of Fort Sumter has become, through the great number of descriptions given of it, a rather tiresome and uninteresting subject. To the letter of Mr. Russell, the distinguished correspondent of the London Times, dated at Charleston on the 21st of April, renewed its interest, and it is now, in the eyes of the public, a subject of the first importance. Mr. Russell, it will be seen, does not regard the reduction of the Fort as an achievement of any importance, and expresses the confident belief that if Major Anderson had had sufficient force within the Fort, and been properly supplied with munitions, and the assistance of war, he would have been able to place the batteries on Morris Island, and have burnt up Fort Moultrie, and made a successful defence of Fort Sumter. We annex some interesting extracts from Mr. Russell's letter:

CAPTURE OF THE FORT OF SMALL VALUE IN A MILITARY SENSE.

I find some consolation for the disappointment of not being able to witness the attack upon Fort Sumter, in the description of the condition of the work soon after Major Anderson's surrender. It already I have upon my table a pamphlet entitled "The Battle of Fort Sumter," and several "poems," and a variety of verses, songs, and rhetorical exercises, no author of which, however important as a political demonstration, is of small value in a military sense, except in so far as the bloodless occupation of a position commanding Charleston harbor is concerned. It may tend to prevent any false impressions from imperfect information, to state a few facts connected with the fire in the work and its effects, which will interest, at least, some military readers.

In the first place, it may be well to admit that the military preparations and positions of the South Carolinians were more formidable than one was prepared to expect on the part of a small State, without any considerable internal organization or resources. This General Beauregard, who was a more capable soldier than the officers of the United States Army, and who had capacity and influence enough to direct the energies of the undisciplined masses in the proper direction, instead of allowing them to rush on their fate in the perilous essay of an untrained militia, was the State of South Carolina had for a long time been accumulating arms and munitions of war, and it may be said that ever since the nullification contest she had permitted herself to dwell on the idea of ultimate secession, to be effected by force if necessary. When General Beauregard and Major Whiting came here the fort was in a very imperfect state, and Anderson and his officers had a true professional contempt for the batteries of the civilians and militiamen, which was in some measure justified. One morning, however, as they made survey of their enemy's labors for the previous night, they perceived a change had come over the design of their works. That some one who knew his business as well as they did, was evident. Their strange relationship with those who were preparing to destroy them if possible, however, prevented their recourse to the obvious means which were then in abundance in their hands to avert the coming danger.

WHAT MAJOR ANDERSON MIGHT HAVE DONE IF ORDERED.

Had Major Anderson maintained a well-regulated fire on the enemy's batteries, he might have done much. He might have begun to throw up his batteries and prepared Fort Moultrie against him, he could have made their progress very slow and exceedingly laborious, and have marked it at every step with blood. His command over the ground was very decided, but he had, it is supposed, the best of the fort, and he had, it is supposed, the best of the fort, and he had, it is supposed, the best of the fort.

THE POSITION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TROOPS.

The position of the troops is undeniably good. Now and then, however, weak men may be met with, but the great majority of the companies consist of rank and file exceeding the average stature of Europeans, and very well built and muscular. The men run very large down here. Nothing, indeed, can be more obvious when one looks at the full grown, well-built, and muscular men who are in the streets, in the bar-rooms, and in the saloons, than the error of the argument, which is mainly used by the Carolinians themselves, that white men cannot thrive in their State. In limb, figure, height, weight, they are equal to any people I have ever seen, and their features are very regular and pronounced. They are, indeed, as like the ideal American of our caricaturists and our stage as the "militar" of the Port of St. Martin to the English gentleman. Some of this superiority is due to the fact that the bulk of the white population here are in all but name aristocrats, or rather oligarchs. The State is but a gigantic Sparta, in which the helots are marked by an indelible difference of color and race from the masters. The white population is not land and slave holding and agricultural is very small and very insignificant. The masters enjoy every advantage which can conduce to the physical excellence of a people and to the cultivation of the graces and accomplishments of life, even though they are rather disposed to neglect purely intellectual enjoyments. The ranks are men worth from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year—at least, so I was told—and none were pointed out to me who were said to be worth far more. One private feeds his company on French pates and Maderia, another provides his company with unlimited Champagne, most grateful on the arid sand-hills, a third, with a more soldierly view to the permanent rather than occasional efficiency, purchases for the men of his "Guard" a complete equipment of Eufrid rifles. How long the zeal and resources of these gentlemen will last it may not be easy to say. At present they would be formidable to an enemy, except a regular army on the plain and in the open field, but they are not provided with field artillery or with adequate

GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

Yesterday morning I waited on Gen. Beauregard, who is commanding the forces of South Carolina. His aide-de-camp—Mr. Manning, Mr. Chesnut, Mr. Porcher Miles and Colonel Lucas—accompanied me. Of these the former has been Governor of his State; the next has been a Senator; the third a member of Congress. They are all volunteers, and are gentlemen of position in the State; and the fact that they are not only content but gratified to act as aides to the professional soldier is the best proof of the reality of the spirit which animates the class they represent. Mr. Lucas is a gentleman of the State, who is acting as aide-de-camp to Governor Pickens. Passing through the dense crowd which, talking, smoking and reading newspapers, fills the large hall of the Mills House, we emerge on the dirty street, sufficiently broad, and lined with trees protected by wooden sheathings at the base. The houses, not very lofty, are clean and spacious, and provided with verandahs facing the street as far as possible. The trees give the appearance of a boulevard, and the general air has something of a reminiscence of the Hague about it, which I cannot explain or account for satisfactorily. The headquarters are in a large, airy public building, once devoted to an insurance company's operations or to the accommodation of the public fire companies. There was no guard at the door, officers and privates were passing to and fro in the hall, part of which was cut off by canvas screens, so as to form rooms for the departments of the Horse Guards of South Carolina. Into one of these we turned, and found the desks occupied by officers in uniform, writing dispatches and copying documents with all the abandon of a peace establishment. A soldier, however, who got at printed forms and Government stationery. In another moment we were ushered into a smaller room, and presented to the General, who was seated at his desk. Any one accustomed to soldiers can readily detect the "real article" from the counterfeit, and when Gen. Beauregard stood up to welcome us, it was plain to see that he was a more capable soldier than the officers of the United States Army, and who had capacity and influence enough to direct the energies of the undisciplined masses in the proper direction, instead of allowing them to rush on their fate in the perilous essay of an untrained militia, was the State of South Carolina had for a long time been accumulating arms and munitions of war, and it may be said that ever since the nullification contest she had permitted herself to dwell on the idea of ultimate secession, to be effected by force if necessary. When General Beauregard and Major Whiting came here the fort was in a very imperfect state, and Anderson and his officers had a true professional contempt for the batteries of the civilians and militiamen, which was in some measure justified. One morning, however, as they made survey of their enemy's labors for the previous night, they perceived a change had come over the design of their works. That some one who knew his business as well as they did, was evident. Their strange relationship with those who were preparing to destroy them if possible, however, prevented their recourse to the obvious means which were then in abundance in their hands to avert the coming danger.

VISIT TO THE BATTERIES.

Embarked, with a few additions to our original party, on board a small steamer called the Lady Davis, we first proceeded to Morris Island, about 3 miles from Charleston. Our steamer was filled with commissariat stores and baggage, and was crowded with soldiers who have been sent to Southport. Any one who has ever been at Southport, will have a good idea of the place. Our landing was opposed by a guard of stout volunteers, with crossed firelocks; but they were satisfied with the General's authority, and we proceeded, the General's aide-de-camp, to visit the batteries which played on the landward face of Sumter. They are made of sand bags for the most part, well placed in the sand hills, with good traverses and well protected magazines, the embrasures being faced with palmetto logs, which do not splinter when struck by shot. It did not, however, require much investigation to find that these works would be greatly injured by a fire of vertical shot, or horizontal shell from the fort, and that the distance of their armament would render it difficult to breach the solid walls which were opposed to them at upwards of 1,200 yards away. However, there were two powerful mortar batteries, which could have done great damage if they were well served, and have made the terrible and deadly work of the complete "shell train" unless the mortar was injured. The civilians and militiamen set greater store on the Iron Battery at Cummings' Point, which is at the point of the island nearest the fort, but the fire of heavy guns would soon have destroyed their confidence. It consisted of yellow pine logs placed in a vertical upright. The top of the logs, the same material, slopes from the top of the logs, and the sand facing the enemy; over it are dovetailed bars of railroad iron, of the T pattern, from top to bottom, all rivetted down in the most secure manner.

ON THE FRONT OF THE FORT.

On the front of the fort, the iron roof and in the present angle of thirty degrees. There are three mortars with iron shutters. When opened by the action of a lever, the muzzles of the columbids fill up the space completely. The columbids guns with which this battery is equipped, bear on the south wall of Sumter at an angle. The inclined side of the battery has been struck by six shot, the effect of two of which is enough to demonstrate that the work of the guns would have been destructive. The columbid is a kind of Dahlgren—that is, a piece of ordnance very light in the breech, and lightened off gradually from the trunnions to the muzzle. The platforms were rather light, but the carriages were solid and well made, and the elevating screw or hitches of the guns were in good order. The works are of various calibers, and are described, mostly 8 and 10-inch; and it is said there were 17 of them in position and working against the fort, and that 35 guns were from time to time directed against it. Shot and shell appeared to be abundant enough. The works are all small detached batteries, with sand-bag muzzles, and open at the shore of the island, they extend for four miles along the shore of the island. The camps are pitched most irregularly between the sand hills—tents of all shapes and sizes, in the fashion called higgledy-piggledy, here and there in knots and groups, in a way that would drive an Indian quartermaster general mad. Dens of beef and mutton, Champagne and wine bottles obstructed the approaches, which were of a nature to affect Dr. Butcher and Sir John McNeill most bitterly, and to suggest the reflection that the army which so utterly neglected sanitary regulations could not long exist as soon as the sun gained full power. They say, however, the men are not sickly, and that these sand hills are the most healthy spots about Charleston.

PORT SUMTER.

Having satisfied our curiosity as well as the standards permitted, we got into a row boat and proceeded to Sumter. At a distance the fort bears some resemblance to Fort Mifflin at Sebastopol. It is a truncated pentagon, with three faces armed—that is to say, towards Morris Island being considered safe from attack, as the work was only intended to retard an approach from the sea. It is said to cost altogether more than \$200,000 sterling. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, 60 feet high, and from 8 to 12 feet in thickness, and carry three tiers of guns on the north, east, and west exterior sides. Its weakest point is on the south side, where the masonry is not protected by any flank fire or armament of 160 pieces of ordnance of all calibers. Two tiers are under bomb-proof casemates, and the third or upper tier is the barbettes; the lower tier is intended for 42-pounder paixhans guns; the second tier for 8 and 10-inch columbids, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and

gun.

But only 75 are now mounted. Eleven paixhan guns are among that number, nine of them commanding Fort Moultrie. Four of the 32-pounder barbettes guns are on pivot carriages, and others have a sweep of 180 degrees. The walls are pierced everywhere for musketry. The magazine contains several hundred barrels of powder, and a supply of shot and shell. The garrison was amply supplied with water from artificial wells. The war garrison of the fort ought to be at least 600 men, but only 79 were within its walls, with the laborers—109, all told—at the time of the attack. The walls of the fort are dented on all sides by shot marks, but in no instance was any approach made to a breach, and the greatest damage, at one of the angles on the south face, did not extend more than two feet into the masonry, which is of very fine brick. The parapet is, of course, damaged, but the casement embrasures are uninjured. On landing at the wharf we perceived that the granite copings had suffered more than the brick work, and the stone had split up and splintered where it was struck. The work of the defenders was evident here. They had no mortar with which to fasten up the stone slabs they had adapted as blinds to the windows of the unprotected south side, but Major Anderson, or his subordinate, Captain Foster, had closed the slabs in with lead, which he rendered from some water piping, and had rendered them proof against musketry, which he prepared also to resist by extensive mine laid under the wharf and landing place, to be fired by friction tubes and lines laid inside the work. He had also prepared a number of shells for the same purpose, to act as hand grenades, with friction tubes and lanyards, when hurled down from the parapet on the assailants. The entrance to the fort was blocked up by masses of masonry, which had been thrown down from the walls of the burnt barracks and officers quarters along the south side. A number of men were engaged in digging up the mines at the wharf, and others were busied in completing the ruin of the tottering walls, which were still so hot that it was necessary to keep a hose of water playing on part of the brickwork.

THE DEFENCE OF FORT SUMTER.

To an uninitiated eye it would seem as if the fort was untenable, but, in reality, in spite of the destruction done to it, a stout garrison, properly supplied, would have been in no danger from anything, except the explosion of the magazine, of which the copper door was jammed by the explosion of the powder. The exclusive of the burning of the quarters, and the intense heat, there was no reason for properly handled and sufficient force to surrender the place. It is needless to say Major Anderson had neither the one nor the other. He was in all respects most miserably equipped. His guns were without screws, scales, or tangles, so that his elevations were managed by rude wedges of wood, and his scales marked in chalk on the breech of the guns. The tangles and bearings scratched in the same way on the side of the embrasures. He had not a single fuse for his shells, and he tried in vain to improvise them by filling pieces of bored-out pine with oiled gunpowder. His cartridges were out, and he was compelled to detail some of his few men to make them out of shreds of paper and lead. He had no single mortar, and he was compelled to the desperate expedient of planting long guns in the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, for which he could find no shell, as he had no fuses which could be fired with safety. He had no sheers to mount his guns, and chance alone enabled him to do so by the aid of the iron rails of the fort, and he was compelled to put out his own recoil, even one engine to put out a fire in quarters. He walked carefully over the parapet and could detect the marks of seven shells in the ground, but Major Whiting told me the orders were to burst the shells over the parapet so as to frustrate any attempt to throw the barbettes guns. He was, indeed, injured by shot, and one of his legs was wounded. He was, indeed, injured by shot, and one of his legs was wounded. He was, indeed, injured by shot, and one of his legs was wounded.

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UNITED STATES MILITARY ROUTE.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO TRAVELERS.

On and after Thursday, May 16, 1861.

PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE.

Will run as follows:

LEAVE WASHINGTON at 4:15 and 7:10 a. m., and 9:30 and 5:30 p. m. for Baltimore at 5:30 and 8:30 a. m., and 4:15 and 7:30 p. m.

LEAVE BALTIMORE at 4:30 and 8:30 a. m., and 5:30 and 9:30 p. m. for Washington at 7:10 and 10:10 a. m., and 5:30 and 8:45 p. m.

Passenger Trains leaving Washington at 7:10 a. m., and 10:10 a. m., and 5:30 p. m., will stop at Annapolis, and make direct connections for Annapolis at the Junction.

Trains leave Annapolis for Baltimore and Washington at 6:30 a. m., and 4:15 p. m.

Passenger Trains leaving Washington at 4:15 and 7:10 a. m., and 9:30 and 5:30 p. m., will stop at Annapolis, and make direct connections for Annapolis at the Junction.

By order of the Secretary of War: THOMAS A. SCOTT, General Manager.

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ON SUNDAY THE TRAINS WILL LEAVE THE DEPOT AT 7:10 A. M., AND 2:30 P. M., FOR PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

THOMAS A. SCOTT, General Manager.

NOTICE TO TRAVELERS.

The Postmaster General having ordered the mail service to be suspended on Sunday, the 20th inst., the following trains will leave Baltimore at 7:10 a. m., and 2:30 p. m., for Philadelphia and New York.

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Also, every description of standard SILVER WARE, plain and ornamental, manufactured under the supervision of the best workmen, and sold at the lowest prices.

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Persons calling at my office can be accommodated with any style and price of Teeth they may desire; but to those who desire the best, I can produce the MINERAL PLATE TEETH.

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References—Rev. Geo. H. Norton, Rev. Dr. Elias Harrison, Rev. Dr. F. Sprague, William H. Fowler, Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Dr. Edmunds, Rev. Dr. H. H. Henry, Henry M. Berry, Esq., Lewis McKenney, Esq., Robert H. Hunt, Esq., W. D. Wallach, Esq., and others.

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